

<p style="text-align: center;">Greenville Need-based Roundtable Fall 2006</p>

1. What is the profile of the neediest students at your institution?

- Low income
- Low family support
- First generation
- Non-traditional students (over 22 years of age)
- Pell Grant doesn't define needy population
- Disadvantaged backgrounds
- Apply late to school and financial aid. When students apply late money has been given out.
- There is a lot of unmet need. Pell Grant brings need up to the level of need by other students.
- Needy students are more likely to lose scholarships.
- Receive Pell Grant
- Need-based Grant has not kept pace with tuition.
- Most students bring in debt to college. They are using credit cards to pay tuition bills.
- Minority
- Transportation issues
- Loan indebtedness
- Students have unmet need after full package is awarded. This contributes to high loan amounts.
- Student may not be eligible for Pell Grant or Need-based Grant because of EFC or credit hours.
- Schools give NBG to non-Pell recipients to level playing field. Pell Grant is \$4,050 and NBG is \$2,000.
- Increased alternative loans
- Low credit
- Welfare
- Dislocated workers

2. How do we allow the neediest students access to colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Needy students lack knowledge of how to apply
- Empower them
- Make students aware of college process
- Do we guarantee access?
- Different sectors meet different student needs
- There is a response team that goes out to plant closings to educate workers about college and its benefits. This could be expanded to high schools.
- HEAP/GEAR-UP/TRIO

- Academic Success Center – grant-funded. Center has 90% retention rate.
- There is a stigma attached to being needy.
- The name of the Need-based Grant is not political enough.
- Students know about LTAP and LIFE because of the publicity. They don't know about the Need-based Grant.
- LIFE and PFS are entitlements to student and family. NBG is not an entitlement. Can we make it one?
- Financial Aid Offices attempt to award all funds equitably across campus.
- Full Pell at a two-year institution barely covers tuition and books
- It is sophomore, junior, and senior years that students are needier because they have lost their scholarships from the freshman year.
- Be consistent with state programs and eligibility. Allow students to go to summer school to increase hours and GPA (2.0 and 24 credit hours)
- Look at the 24 credit hours and 2.0 GPA for NBG. Satisfactory Academic Progress might be a better suggestion. Allow for flexibility.

3 . What aid is available for our neediest students?

- Pell Grant
- Loans
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Academic Competitiveness Grant
- SMART Grant
- Institutions push for merit-based aid.
- Some institutions have need-based aid.
- Outside scholarships
- ROTC
- Community Service
- There should be a link between increase in tuition and the NBG funding.
- Secretary Spellings Report

4 . How do we retain the State's neediest students at the colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Support Services
- Tutoring
- Computer lab
- Need to look at students taking remedial courses on the NBG. Students do not have a GPA with remedial courses.
- Other agencies put demands on students. For example student must work 20 hours per week to receive welfare.
- Transportation

- Returning students do not fill out FAFSA even after all of the reminders and offers to help.
- Motivation of student
- Knowledge of student
- Individual responsibility

5 . Are there special programs targeted at this population?

- University 101
- Admit students that fall below admission criteria. University provides attention (study hall, reduced hours) to them. Great retention and graduation rate for group.
- Should state match institutional money allocated to needy students?
- Advisors
- College 103 course
- Need more money for administrative overhead and programs

6 . How can the State better serve our neediest students?

- Is college a goal for all high school graduates?
- How can we help them graduate from college?
- Who will our citizens be in 10 years?
- We need to focus on the students we are serving now before expanding the program.
- Any additional allocation should go to increasing the maximum NBG.
- LTAP should include a book allowance.
- LTAP is not going to needy students. It is going to students with high estimated family contribution.